**HAPARA UPDATE – 13th December 2021**

**Police Training College Planning Application**

The following is a copy of the press release that has been issued jointly by HAPARA and P&BBPC:- “Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents’ Association, together with Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council have submitted a formal letter of complaint to Harrogate Borough Council about the conduct of the planning committee meeting of 7 December at which the application by Homes England, for up to 200 dwellings on the former Police Training Centre site at Yew Tree Lane, was approved.

The complaint refers to a chaotic and confusing session in which the committee first rejected the officer’s recommendation and, some three hours later, reversed their decision to approve the application. This followed a claim by the applicant that the committee had previously acted unlawfully, perceived threats from the applicant of costly appeals, constant reference to costs by officers, interruption by officers of members’ debates and inaccurate and misleading advice from the chair.

Although much of the debate centred on the role of the emerging West of Harrogate Parameters Plan, no officer from that team was present to clarify the purpose and timetable for the Plan and some misleading statements made at the meeting went uncorrected.

The final vote, delivered after a long and tiring session, reflected sheer fatigue. In our opinion, the committee were unduly influenced by the threat of the costs, which is not a material planning consideration and which one member described as blackmail. Given the other irregularities, we have asked the Council’s Chief Executive to comment on the validity of the decision reached.”

**Bluecoat Park H45 – Homes England**

Homes England has undertaken a leaflet drop to around 2,300 properties and launched a website to help explain and consult on their proposal for a development of up to 480 houses on the above site alongside a replacement cricket pitch and pavilion, a sports hub and community woodland. You can access the new website via the following link: [www.bluecoat-park-harrogate.co.uk](http://www.bluecoat-park-harrogate.co.uk)

***Please take this opportunity to input your comments on what will be one of the largest developments on the western side of Harrogate.***

This site already had approval for 450 dwellings and, although the current proposals are for 480 (a 7% increase), this is more acceptable than Homes England’s first proposal for 560. However, we regard it as imperative that the West of Harrogate Parameters Plan is approved soon so that all important matters of infrastructure (schools, shops, bus routers, etc.) can be properly coordinated between this very large development and the other sites in the area.

HAPARA will be taking part in a meeting with HBC on the Parameters Plan in January and will consider “next steps” in relation to this site once a planning application has been submitted to Harrogate Borough Council. In the meantime the “Our Neighbourhood” section of the www.hapara.org website will be updated to reflect the latest information provided by Homes England.

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